



# NORTH STAR NEWS

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - Key Women Educators

2 0 1 1 F A L L E D I T I O N

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## Highlights shared of the Executive Board Meeting October 1, 2011

☒ Tau State added a new chapter. Alpha Meta is the chapter of those members who were formerly state members. This statewide chapter is a first for Tau State and for Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Five of the sixteen charter members participated in the ceremony.

☒ The Board approved use of the unspent CHEERS funds to continue to support chapters in the next biennium.

☒ The Board approved the changes of the Tau State Bylaws and Standing Rules to align them with the changes already made by International. Work will continue on them to correct language to reflect the digital age.

☒ Diane Rauschenfels shared information about three potential conference sites for 2014. She invited feedback from those in attendance before a site is chosen and contracts signed.

☒ As an experiment and as a cost-saving measure, the membership directory will be distributed electronically for the next two years.

☒ The Board endorsed the nominations of Barbara Whiting for international representative at

large and Roberta Johnson for Northwest Regional director.

☒ The Board recommended that chapters contribute \$1 per member for the Grant-in-Aid.

☒ The Board voted to reimburse chapter presidents at \$0.20 a mile for Executive Board meetings.

☒ Sue Stokke and Pat Peterson did a reading to encourage us to attend the conference at the Crown Plaza on April 20-22, 2012.

☒ Councils met over lunch to discuss membership and projects, in particular, the initiative to help early career educators.

☒ Deadlines: (application forms on the Tau State Website <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MN/>)

☒ November 10, 2011  
○ Chapter dues to State Treasurer – Dianna Brusven

☒ November 15, 2011

○ Jeannette Fair Book Award – to Marcia Essman

☒ December 1, 2011

○ Chapter Audit Sheets – to Rosalie Huston

☒ January 15, 2012  
○ Bernice Gestie Scholarship – to Celi Turch  
○ Grant-in-Aid – to Joanne Lockner  
○ Member Honoree for Recruitment Grants – to Joanne Lockner  
○ Outstanding Service Award – to Cory Peters

☒ February 1, 2012  
○ Chapter President's Report – to Phyllis E. VanBuren  
○ Necrology Report – to Phyllis E. VanBuren, Marge Bates and Rosalie Huston

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*To design dreams, to kindle all knowledge, and to garner all gladness*

Dear Tau State DKG Sisters,  
“It’s in the Bag”—you elected me to serve this organization for the next biennium. It’s with honor and humility I accept the responsibility to serve Tau State for the next two years. With the help of the Executive Board, we have selected our first goals. They are very similar to those of other states, as I leaned at the Leadership Training at the NW Regional Conference in Edmonton in July—membership and supporting early career teachers.

We recall the pride we felt as we were invited to membership in Delta Kappa Gamma—an organization of key women educators and we had been chosen for membership. With that in mind, we must invite other key women educators to membership. We must also remember those sisters who resigned and who may be able to reconnect again. We are proud to be DKG sisters!

We also recall the challenges of entering the profession and how much a pat on the back, a thank-you, a word of encouragement, a shared idea, some extra books or supplies from a colleague down the hall—a gesture, a word—lightened the load and kept us going. Now it’s time to pay it back or pay it forward. Tau State and its chapters will be supporting the THAT (Teachers Helping Another Teacher)

project along with the rest of the country.

The full story of THAT was published in the fall edition of The Bulletin. We have a link on the Tau State Web page for that issue.

As individuals, report to your chapter all time and materials shared with female and male teachers who are in their first three years of teaching. Chapters will report that to me and I will share it with International. Next summer there will be a presentation in Washington D. C. to publicize the generosity of DKG sisters to colleagues entering the profession.

“It’s in the Bag”—DKG sisters might have gently used handbags to donate for the fundraiser at next April’s conference. Visit the Tau State Web site for more information about the plans that are already in place for the conference. It will be great; that’s a guarantee (It’s in the Bag).

“It’s in the Bag”—our dream is possible. My theme for the biennium is DKG twice over.

Design Dreams, Kindle Knowledge, Garner Gladness, (This is our quest).

As teachers we do dream of success for each student. We design lessons and projects to help them learn. We want to spark that desire to learn and to acquire knowledge to come from within each child. We see that beam on



**Dr. Phyllis E. VanBuren**

the face when a child realizes the joy of knowing. We share that gladness because we are proud of that achievement. Our quest, our desire, our motivation is for each child to learn and to become a lifelong learner. While that was an impossible dream for the Man of La Mancha, for teachers the dream is possible. A big hug to Jewell Mendenhall for capturing the vision and creating a song for the biennium that speaks of the dreams that are possible for DKG sisters. Teachers transform dream into reality.

I have already visited a few chapters and hope to visit all of them/you this year. I want to meet Tau State’s leading women educators who are impacting education worldwide.

*Phyllis*



## ***U.S. Forum National Legislative Seminar to be held***

The U.S. Forum seeks to serve the **legislative interest** of United States Members Gamma Society that reflect the **purposes and mission** of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

The purpose of the U.S. Forum is to identify major issues affecting women, children, and education in the U.S. upon which members of the Society may take action.

The National Legislative Seminar is held in even numbered years in Washington D.C. It will be held at the Comfort Inn Pentagon City in Arlington, VA March 18-21, 2012. Deadline for early registration is **February 18, 2012.**

Tau State has a \$500 stipend available to members for first time attendees. If interested please write a letter to President Phyllis VanBuren requesting to be the delegate from Minnesota.

Information brochures and registration forms can be obtained on the International website [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). Click on **Events**, click on **Seminars**, click on **U.S. Forum**.

More information and brochures can be obtained from Cory Peters at 507-451-2103 or be email [cjpeters45@q.com](mailto:cjpeters45@q.com).



**Jewell  
Mendenhall  
celebrates  
her 88th  
birthday at  
Tau State  
Board  
Meeting in  
October**

## ***Notes to you***

Music rests beautifully in Delta Kappa Gamma. Members sang a song for Dr. Phyllis VanBuren at the fall Board Meeting. It embraced all three of her goals for the upcoming biennium: To design dreams, to kindle all knowledge, and to garner all gladness. We hope that the chapters use it when she comes to visit!

As usual, we're looking for singers to join the Happy Warblers next spring at the next conference. It seems like a long time away, but before you know it, it'll be on top of us! We plan to do a day in a young teacher's life with the use of the computer and happiness. We are expecting all the former members to sing but we always enjoy new members. Remember, we practice only an hour and a half on Saturday the day before we sing. It always seems to come off. If you are interested in joining please let me know and I'll send music.



Meanwhile have a joyous holiday season, and a round of good music in your chapters!

Sincerely,

Jewell Mendenhall, 322 Tianna Drive, Walker, MN 56484

218 547 0020

[jewellm@arvig.net](mailto:jewellm@arvig.net)

## **Minnesotans receive Cornetet awards**

Nicole Christiansen and Ann Hagen from Minnesota have both received a Cornetet Professional Development Award to attend a SMART Workshop at the Minnesota Learning Resource Center in Minneapolis.

## *Ideas shared for leading the way to obtaining more members*

by Barbara Whiting

Wondering how to approach potential candidates? Have you had the problem of new members dropping out after a year or two? Materials are available to help you!

Chapters across our organization are using the new *Pride in the Big Picture Orientation* CD PowerPoint and the accompanying brochure with exciting results. *Pride in the Big Picture* is available from International for \$5.00. A sample letter to invite future members to the orientation is included in the packet.

One chapter recently used the *Pride in the Big Picture* with a group of 14 candidates; subsequently, 12 joined DKG. Another chapter provided a lunch for interested teachers during their fall workshop week. While the teachers ate lunch, the DKG members did the orientation and again had great results. The emphasis of the orientation is on the dynamic culture of DKG, our projects locally and internationally, and the benefits of membership. When a prospective member takes part in this type of orientation she understands the organization and becomes a stronger member.

There is a parallel CD PowerPoint and brochure for re-orienting current members.

*Sustaining Pride in the Big Picture* can be used as a whole or in small pieces over several meetings.

Looking for some tips on reinstating former members or wondering where to look for new members? Check the DKG web site under Membership Committee for the Monthly Memos on these and other topics published by the International Membership Committee.

You can lead the way for your chapter in gaining new members! Contact Tau State Membership Chair Marge Bates ([margebates@aol.com](mailto:margebates@aol.com)) or Tau State Leadership Chair Barbara Whiting ([whitings@att.net](mailto:whitings@att.net)) for more tips or assistance with these programs.

Lead the way to stronger chapters and increased memberships.



### **Shopping Tips**

Do you have a supply of *You and Us* brochures to give to prospective members? How about the *One and All* brochures for current or former members? Both are available from International. Search on [dkg.org](http://dkg.org), click on *Shopping*, type in *You and Us* in the search box. Easy and free, except for paying the postage.



**Barbara Whiting displays membership materials at the NW Regional Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.**

### **Tau State members published in *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin***

An article by Tau State member Kathy Piehl, Nu, entitled, "Can Adults Learn a Second Language? Research Findings and Personal Experience" has been selected for inclusion in the Fall 2011, Volume 78-1 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*.

Barbara Whiting, Beta Beta, has an article, "Dynamic Presentations for Strong Leaders" was selected for inclusion in the Summer 2011, Volume 77-4 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*.

### **New Member**

Welcome:  
Marrilyn Dawson, Alpha Kappa Chapter.

# *What DKG means to me*

by Kathy Patton

People who support you in times of need as well as times of success...awesome

Supporting literature written within our state through the Jeanette Fair Award...awesome

Helping to support young people going into education with grants...awesome

Helping current members with grants to pursue further education and/or projects...awesome

Being part of charitable projects...awesome

Singing together...awesome

Sharing experiences...awesome

Knowing outstanding, highly effective, incredibly intelligent women...awesome

Belonging to a multigenerational organization...awesome

Sending cards, giving hugs to those who need them...awesome

Attending state, regional and international conferences...awesome

Forming life-long friendships...awesome

Coming together twice a year with women from all corners of the state for board meetings and conferences...awesome

Belonging to an organization that continues to evaluate its role in teacher's lives...awesome

Too many things to mention in this short note...awesome

Being a part of an international, state, local organization that supports women educators...Awesome!

## ***Tau State's Outstanding Service Award to be granted***

This award is given in even numbered years to a person or couple representative of the many volunteers who devote so much time, energy, and caring attention to children and youth. The person shall not be a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Nomination forms and criteria are available on the Tau State website:

[www.deltakappagamma.org/MN/forms](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MN/forms).

## **Membership Musings**

by Marge Bates

At the Regional Conference in Edmonton, Membership Chairs received the results of the "State Organization 2011 Membership Profile" Here are the results:

A majority of members accepted membership for the respect, friendship and fellowship of members.

Factors that have encouraged members to remain are fellowship, friendship and professionalism.

Many did not receive a mentor when they joined DKG. Many indicated that they do not mentor new members in DKG. About half of the responses indicated they have recommended someone to membership.

Let's set a goal for every member to invite one person to become a member and provide support and nurture to new members.

## In Memorium



### **Gloria Haslund Tau State President 1991-1993**

Gloria Haslund, Sigma, Tau State President 1991-1993, passed away on September 18, 2011. She served as a third/fourth grade teacher at Lake Elmo Elementary School. In addition, Haslund spent many years in DKG and served as a volunteer for many non-profit organizations. Memorials may be sent to Tau State Treasurer Dianna Brusven.

Betty Lou Brecto, Chi, passed away April 12, 2011, in Crookston, MN. Betty, the oldest of 11 children, was born at New Rockford, ND. She retired from the University of Minnesota-Crookston in 1992 as an Associate Professor in business education.

### ***Tau State bylaws changes approved at the Tau State Board meeting***



Dr. Jeanette Karjala presents proposed changes to Tau State bylaws

Changes have been approved by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee at the Fall Board Meeting in October.

The next step for approval of the changes will be held at the Tau State Organization convention in 2013.

Chapter members who are interested in the proposed changes should contact their chapter president or members of the bylaws committee: Dianna Brusven, Delores Fletcher, Ann Harnden, Jeanette Karjala, Jean Rolle, Mary Snorek, and Lorraine Traut, Parliamentarian.

A reactor committee will be formed to review the proposed changes to the bylaws and standing rules.. This committee will suggest revisions, if needed.



***Alpha Meta, first state chapter in DKG Society is being established at the Fall Tau State Board Meeting in Clearwater. There are sixteen charter members including : L TO R: Joan Buckley, Arlene Matson, Jean Rolle, Dianna Brusven, and Mary Snorek. Phyllis VanBuren is chartering the chapter.***

### ***Professional Affairs update given***

In the past, each DKG chapter has been requested to contribute \$20.00 or more to the \$500.00 Recruitment Grant. After discussion at the Tau State Fall Executive Board Meeting, a decision was made to request each chapter to contribute \$1.00 per member. In doing so, equality will be established among the chapters. This issue will be discussed again at the 2013 convention.

Lou Ann Restad of Alpha Kappa and Carol Rueckert of Alpha Omega have agreed to serve on the committee.

The completed application forms and recommendations for the

grant and the honoree application forms must be submitted to the Professional Affairs Chair by ***January 15, 2012.*** These forms may be accessed at <http://deltakappagamma.org/MN/>

**Mail to: Joanne Lockner, 2035 Sunlight Ave SE, Owatonna, MN 55060**

### ***Websites updated***

Visit the update DKG International website:

[DKG.org](http://DKG.org)

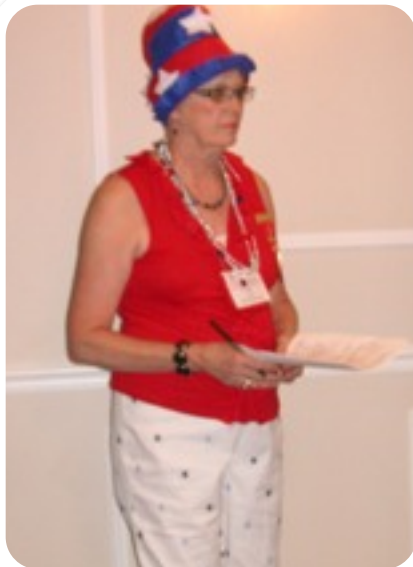
Minnesota website:

<http://deltakappagamma.org/MN/>





*Diane Rauschenfels plays the spoons during Alberta Night's Voyageur performance.*



*Cory Peters presents information on the US Forum and the March 2012 Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C. at the NW Regional Conference.*



## ***Oh, Canada! Northwest Regional Conference revisited***

*by Robbie Johnson*

Tau State members attended the Northwest Regional Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, July 27-30. Embracing Our Vision-Designing Our Future, NW Regional's theme, was depicted in workshops, speakers, and at the business meetings.

Edmonton Night featured Alberta's history through the music, costumes, and dance numbers performed by Ukrainian and Irish dancers, and the Native Running Thunder Dancers. Elder Gilman Cardinal gave the Aboriginal blessings in his native tongue, a Voyageur who sang and involved the audience in spoon tapping melodies, and a guitar country musician also performed. The Vocabella Singers depicted Alberta's modern times.

Speakers were Dr. Patti Hill who addressed the audience with her ideas about Mentors. Not, Tormentors, Dementors or Commentors, but Mentors because "our challenge is to embrace the vision, and mentor on purpose with purpose". Phil Callaway, an award winning author, speaker, and father of three or as known in Canada as "the funniest Canadian alive, spoke at the the second general session. His humorous stories and anecdotes on living life with a purpose and hope embraced the NW regional theme. Paula Simons, an Edmonton journalist with awards for her editorials, columns, and political reporting, spoke on the current lack of support for public education.

Here is a link to her talk. <http://blogs.edmontonjournal.com/2011/08/05/of-peter-pan-ponzi-schemes-and-public-education/> Workshops and the Info Fair displays contributed to the theme of the conference and the work and business of the DKG Society International.

Friday Night Out included a river boat dinner cruise and other activities for the attendees choosing.

Yes, time was found to do a bit of shopping at the largest North American Mall at Edmonton, just at the exit and doorstep of the Fantasyland Hotel and Conference Center, site of the Conference.



*Dr. Phyllis VanBuren is honored at the NW Regional banquet as incoming Tau State president for 2011-2013.*



*Tau State Organization members attend the Northwest Regional Conference in Edmonton, Alberta in July.  
 Front Row: Robbie Johnson, Marge Bates, Phyllis VanBuren, Cory Peters, Ruth Ranum and Lorryne Traut. Back Row: Diane Larson, Barbara Whiting, Diane Rauschenfels, Jan Sorell, and Delores Fletcher.*



*Lorryne Traut presents at the NW Regional Conference in Edmonton.*



*First Nation Dancer performs at Edmonton Night.*



*Tau State members Ruth Ranum, Delores Fletcher, and Diane Rauschenfels pose with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at the NW Regional Conference.*



*Ukrainian dancers prepare to perform their cultural presentation during Edmonton night at NW Regional Conference.*



# Dreams, Knowledge, Gladness

## Tau State Conference April 20-22, 2012

The theme of Tau state 2012 state conference is **Dreams, Knowledge, and Gladness**.

Come for the Friday night entertainment with **Tina and Lena: May the Laughter Be With You!** The evening is free with your conference registration. Guests pay \$5.00. Bring friends and family with you for the evening. Their presentation will start the evening with gladness and fun.

Saturday will be packed with enticing topics, speakers and workshops. Here's a preview: ending human trafficking in Minnesota and the world, teaching math and science with excellence, the autism spectrum, yoga calm, 5-year old master artists, homeless women who are artists, legal challenges and protecting your rights as a woman and educator, authors and their books, TRA today and what lies ahead, the latest technology in today's classrooms, guardian ad litem services, eating disorders, plus authors and book talks. Judith Pearson will address the challenges faced by female educators in Minnesota during the 20th Century. The day will be filled with knowledge, learning, dreams and gladness.

The banquet will include an extraordinary vocal jazz group. Our Sunday brunch will be inspiring with Tau State's own Happy Warblers and inspirational speaker, Merrilyn Dawson from Alpha Kappa.

There will be a fundraiser called ***It's in the Bag***. Bring gently used purses and tote bags to donate and shop for some new-to-you purses and bags for yourself. Plus, art by homeless women artists from the **I Love a Parade** organization will be for sale.

Invite potential members to attend the conference with you. CEU's will be available. Watch for more information and details on the Tau web site! Plan now to attend the spring conference, April 20-22! Bring another member or a potential member with you. Members who have never attended a state conference may be eligible for a 50 percent reduction in registration fees. Chapter presidents have registration reduction certificates.



Sue Stokke and Pat Peterson present a reading to encourage members to attend the Tau State Conference at the Crown Plaza on April 20-22, 2012.

### ***Bring to Tau State Conference***

Chapter members

gently used tote bags and purses

potential members, i.e.,

career educators

non-public school teachers and administrators

community college instructors  
retired teachers and administrators

College professors and administrators

Remember: CEU's available